

Statement from Alison E. Heron, MBA, CAE, CEO of the Association of Child Life Professionals

"Like you, we are shocked and deeply saddened by the news of the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Texas on Tuesday. I am horrified thinking about these fourth-grade students and the lives that were stolen from them. The entire child life community grieves for the victims and their families and friends."

"We have been here before – in the hundreds of school shootings since Sandy Hook, in the Laguna Woods church shooting, in the vicious act of racism in Buffalo, in the 12 children that die each day in the United States due to gun violence. Every day, communities across the country are torn apart with communities of color being disproportionately harmed."

"But the violence does not have to continue. We can, and must, do more to protect our communities. We owe it to the children and families you serve to say enough is enough and to protect our most vulnerable populations."

"While there is no right way to process trauma or grief, we encourage you to take a moment to practice self-care and check in with those around you that might need extra support."

The child life community has several guides to age-based reactions to trauma and how to help:

- [How Pre-Schoolers React to Trauma and How You Can Help](#)
- [How School-Agers React to Trauma and How You Can Help](#)
- [How Teens React to Trauma and How You Can Help](#)

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About the Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP): ACLP is the leading professional association supporting child life professionals. Child life professionals advance psychosocial care and the emotional safety of children, youth, and families impacted by healthcare and significant life experiences. Founded as a nonprofit organization in 1982, ACLP provides members with professional development programs, resources, membership, certification, and advances best practices. More information on ACLP can be found at childlife.org.